

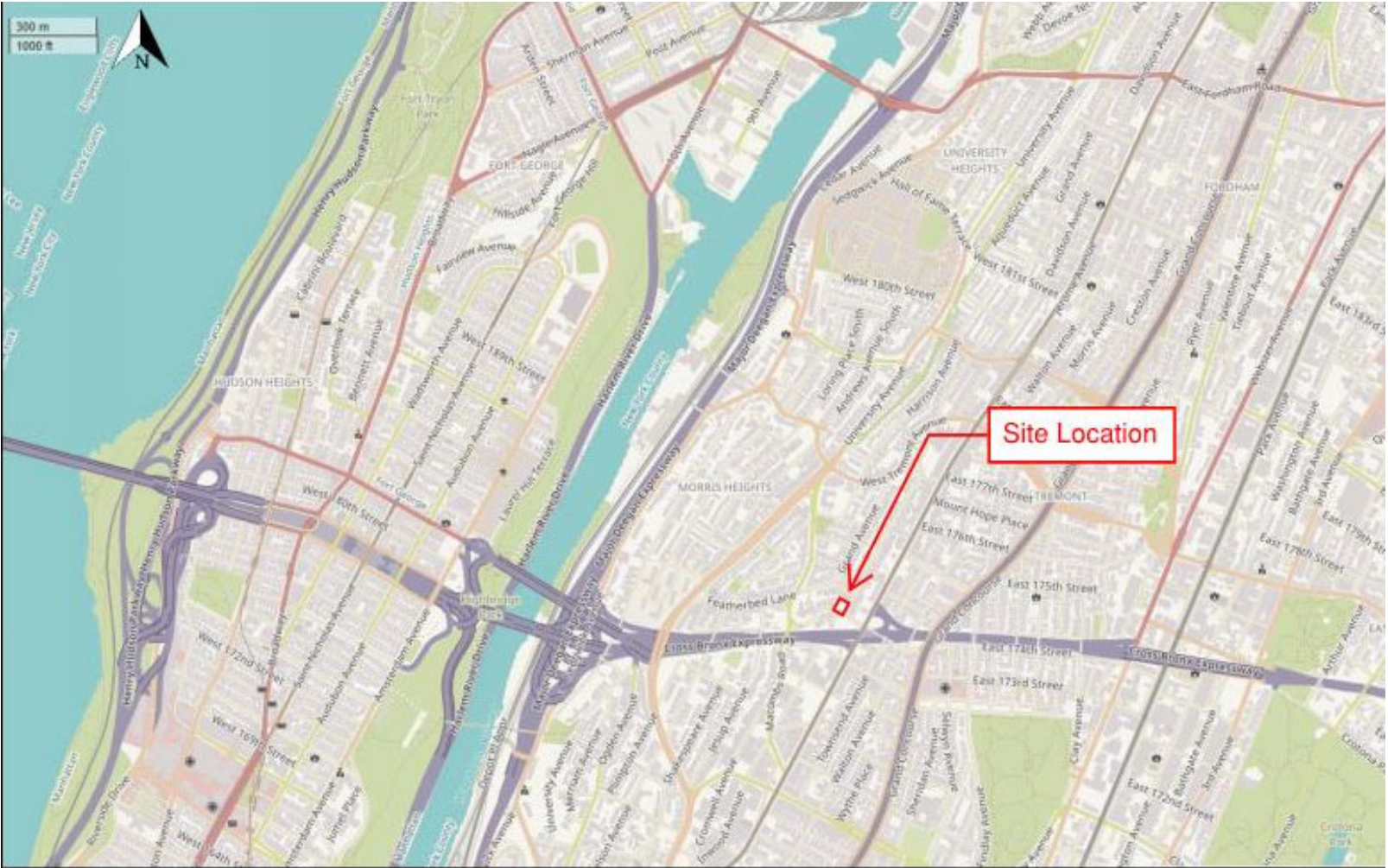


Davidson Avenue Step Street

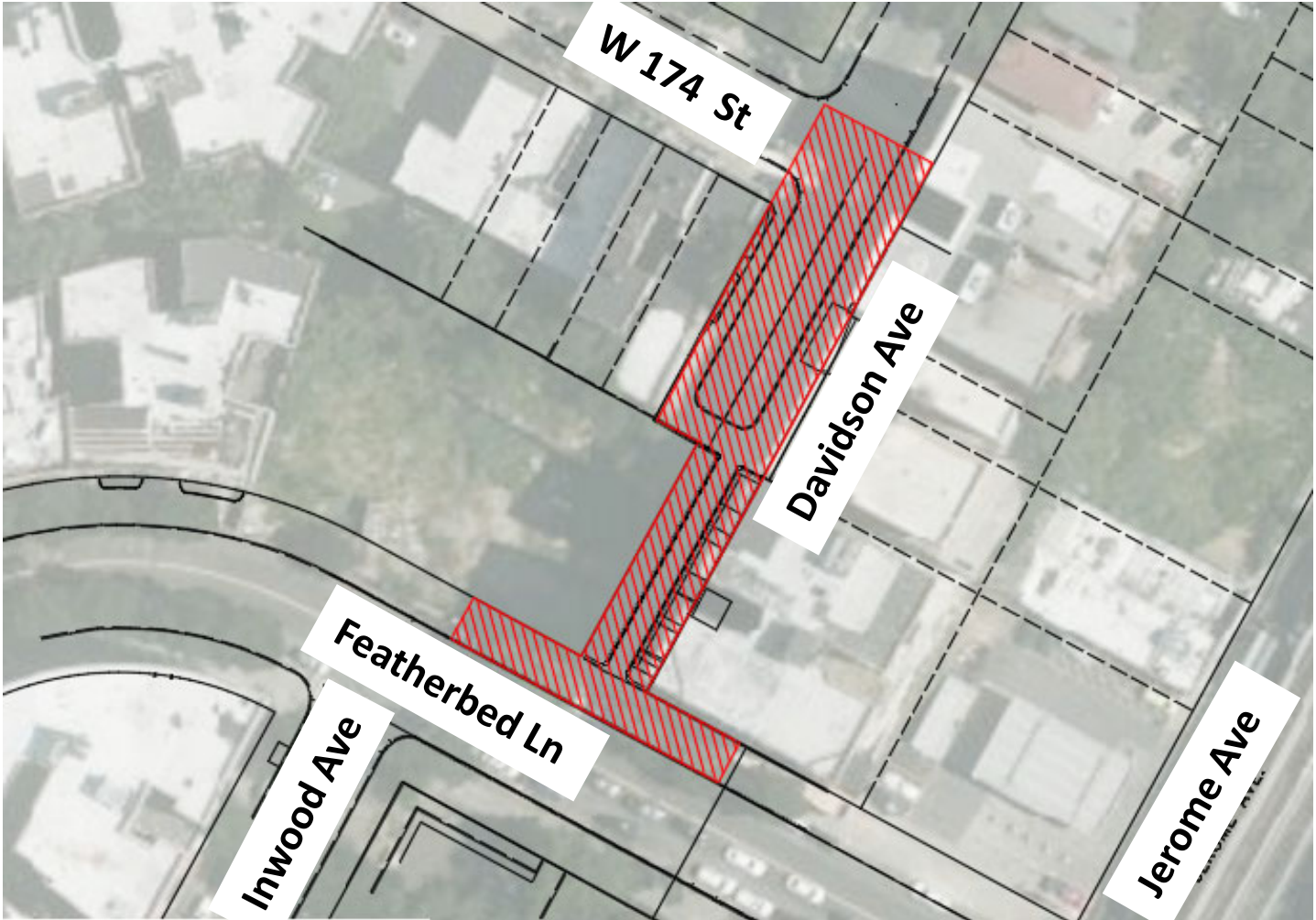
Project ID. HWXS711

Public Design Commission
Preliminary Design Submission
June 20, 2023
Borough of the Bronx

Site Location and Project Limits

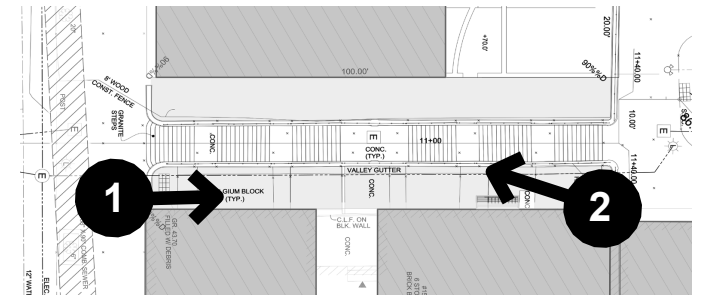


Site Location



Limits of Construction

Existing Conditions

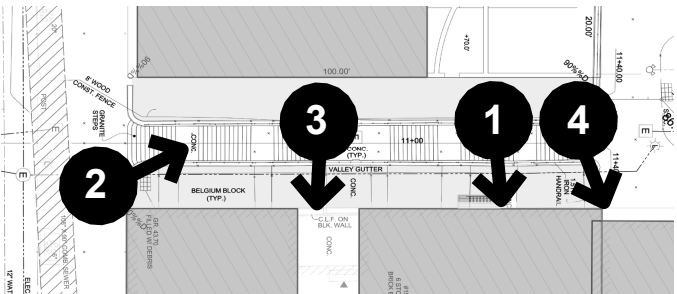


1. Featherbed Lane facing North



2. Davidson Ave facing South

Existing Conditions



1. Existing fire escape and concrete pad with poor egress



2. Existing cobblestone

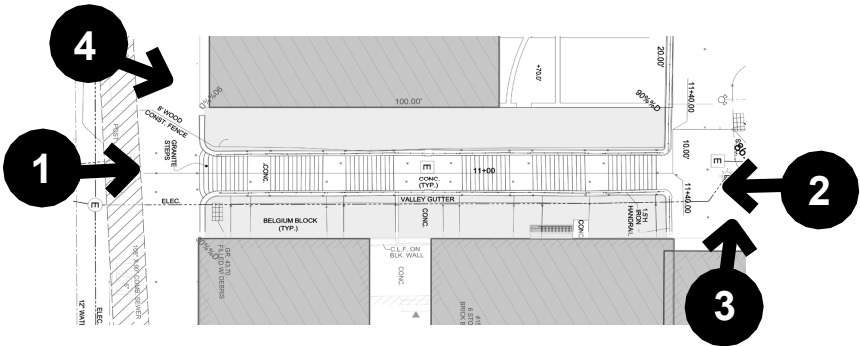


3. Walled-off access to existing building



4. Trash dumped on-site

Existing Conditions



1. Existing stairs and sidewalk from Featherbed Lane



2. Existing stairs and sidewalk from W 174th Street



3. Davidson Avenue between the step street and W 174th Street



4. East side of step street from Featherbed Lane

Existing Conditions



1. East side of step street prior to construction of 29 Featherbed Lane

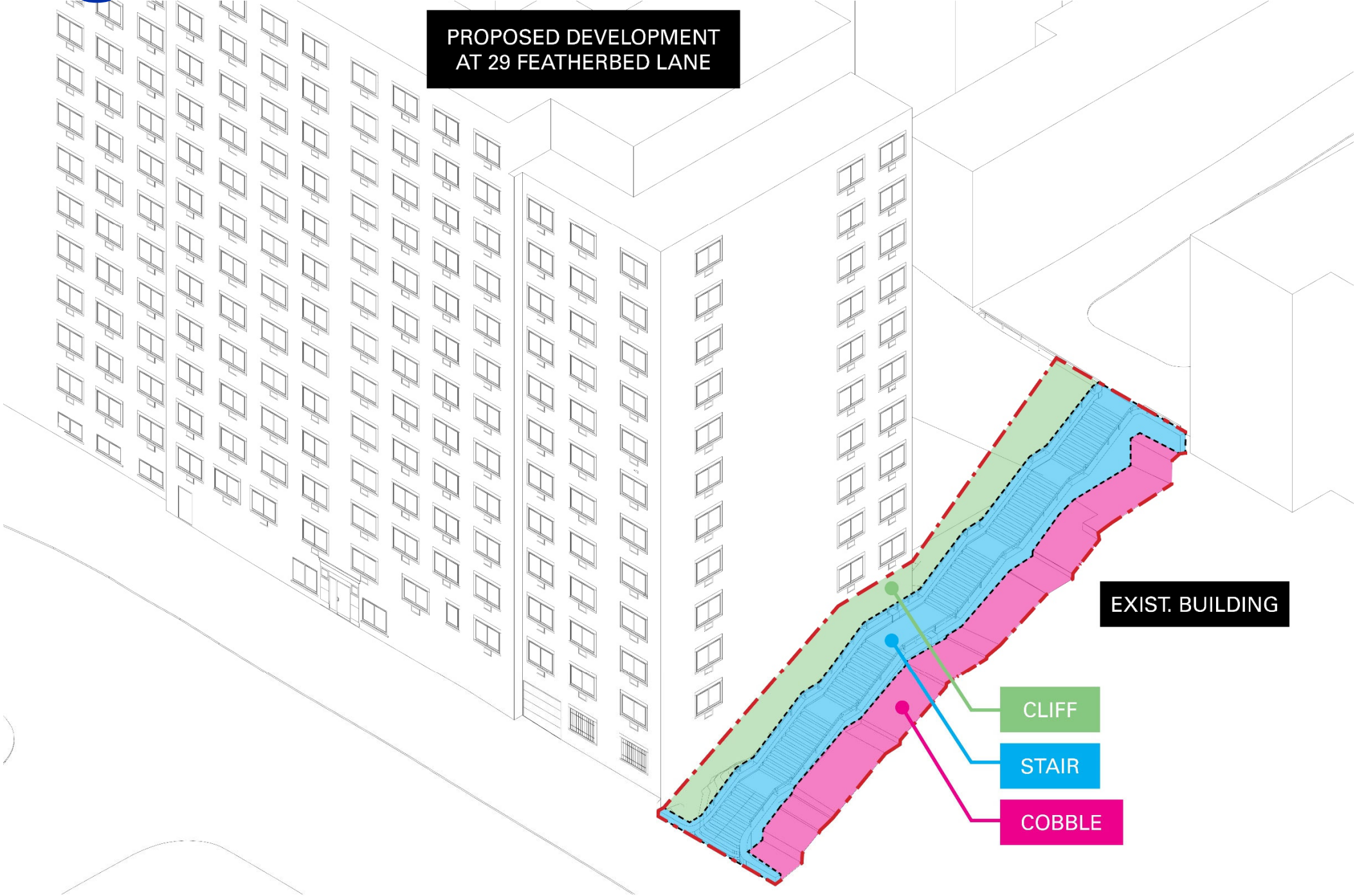


2. East side of step street during land clearing and excavation of 29 Featherbed Lane

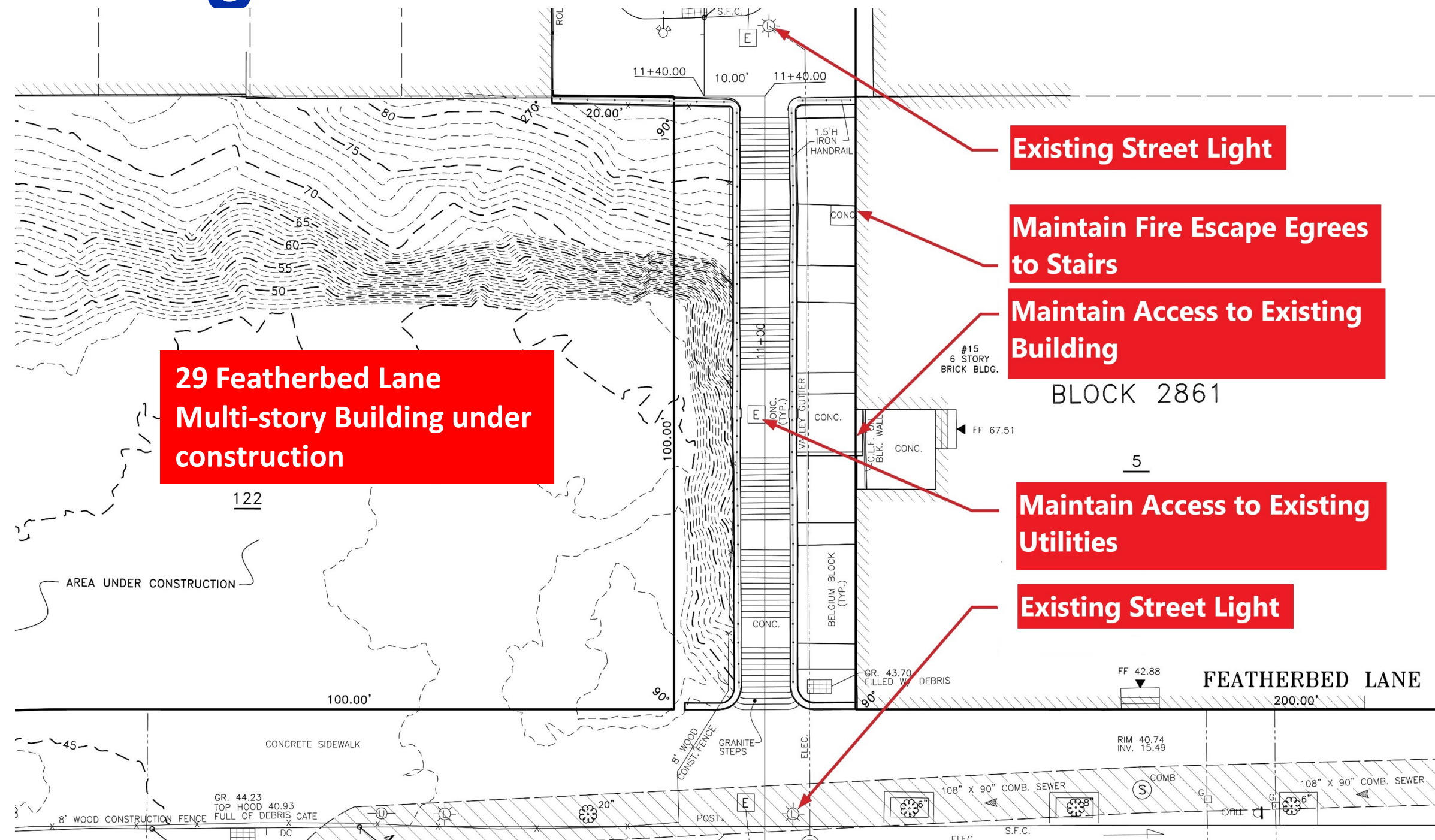


3. North side of step street; 29 Featherbed Lane under construction

Existing Conditions



Existing Conditions

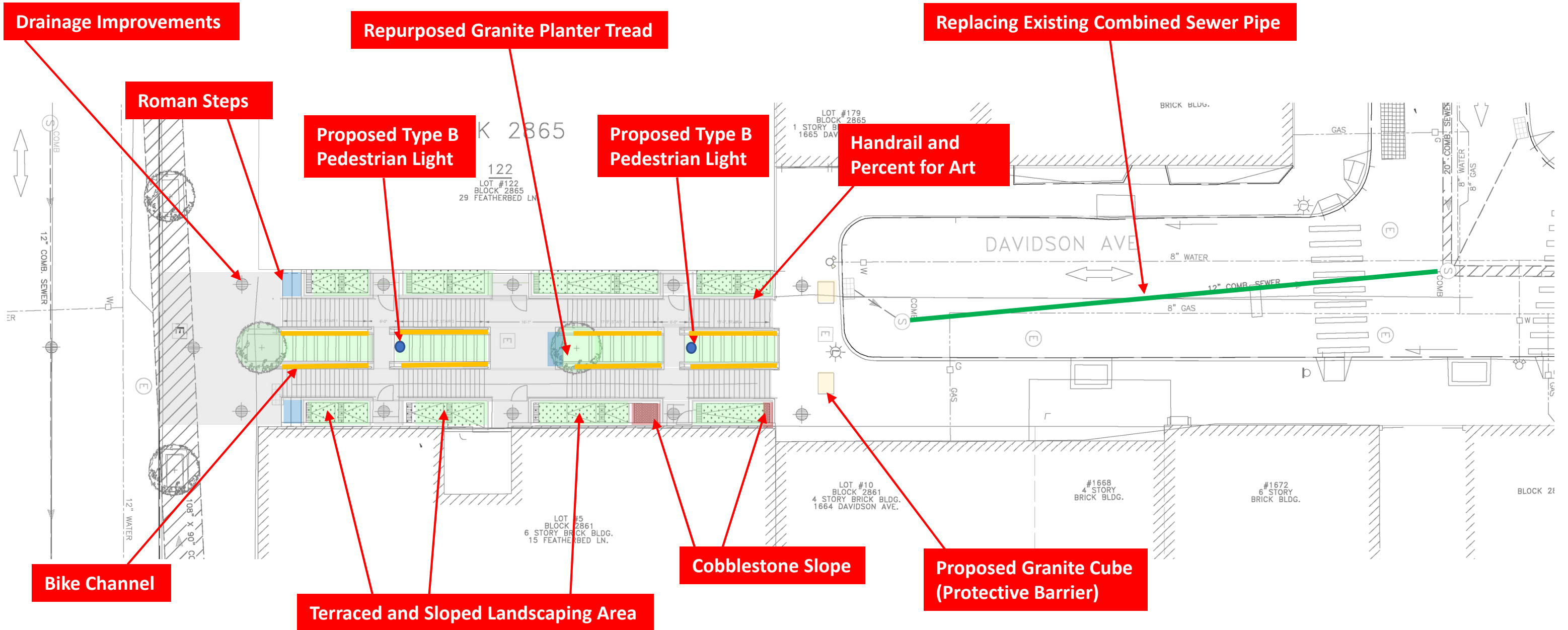


Scope of Work

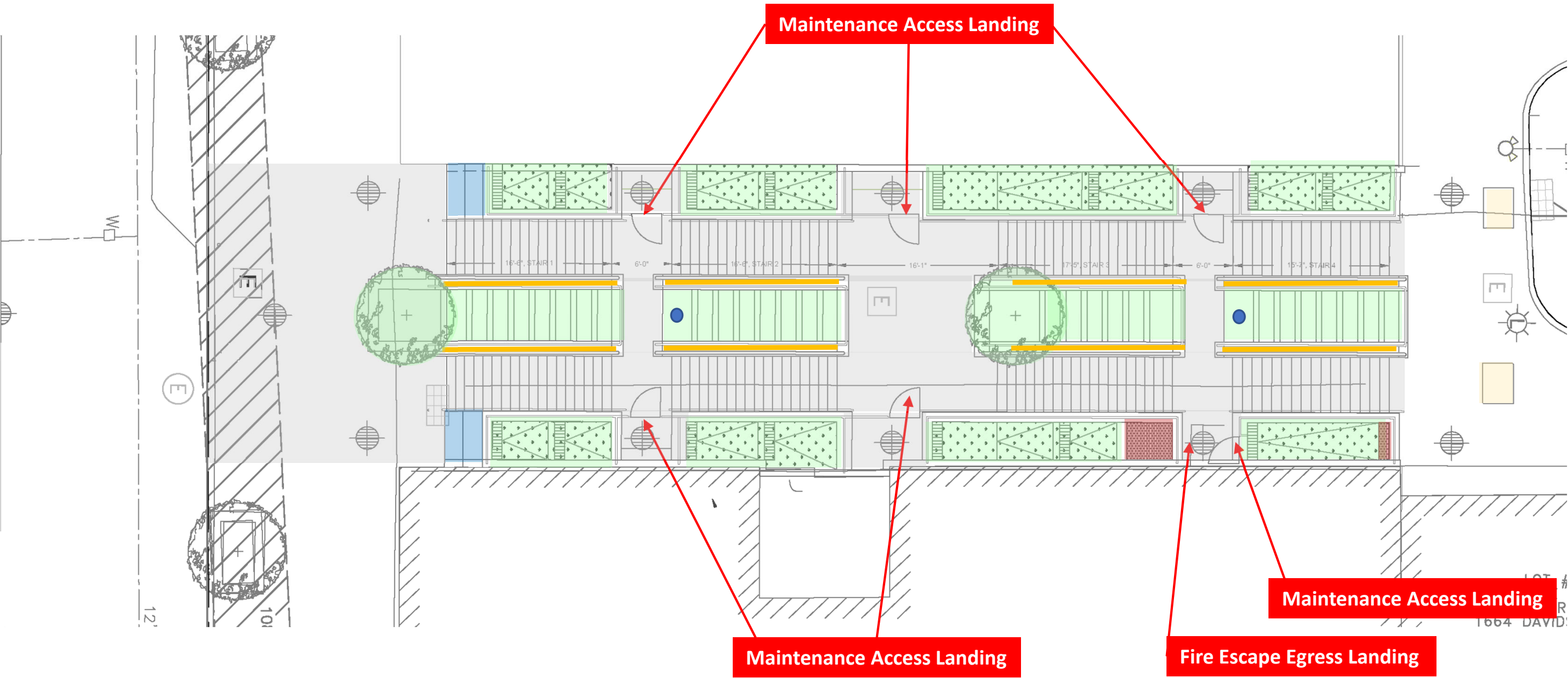
- Demolition of existing Davidson Step Street
- Full reconstruction of Davidson Step Street
- Improved drainage system along Davidson Avenue Step Street
- Landscaping throughout the step street corridor
- Seating and resting areas throughout the step street corridor
- Pedestrian lighting throughout the step street corridor
- NYC Percent for Art; Overseen by NYC Cultural Affairs
- Incorporating Sustainable Design
- Replacement of combined sewer pipe on Davidson Avenue between top of stairs and W 174th Street



Proposed Plan (Cobble Slope and Landscaping Area)

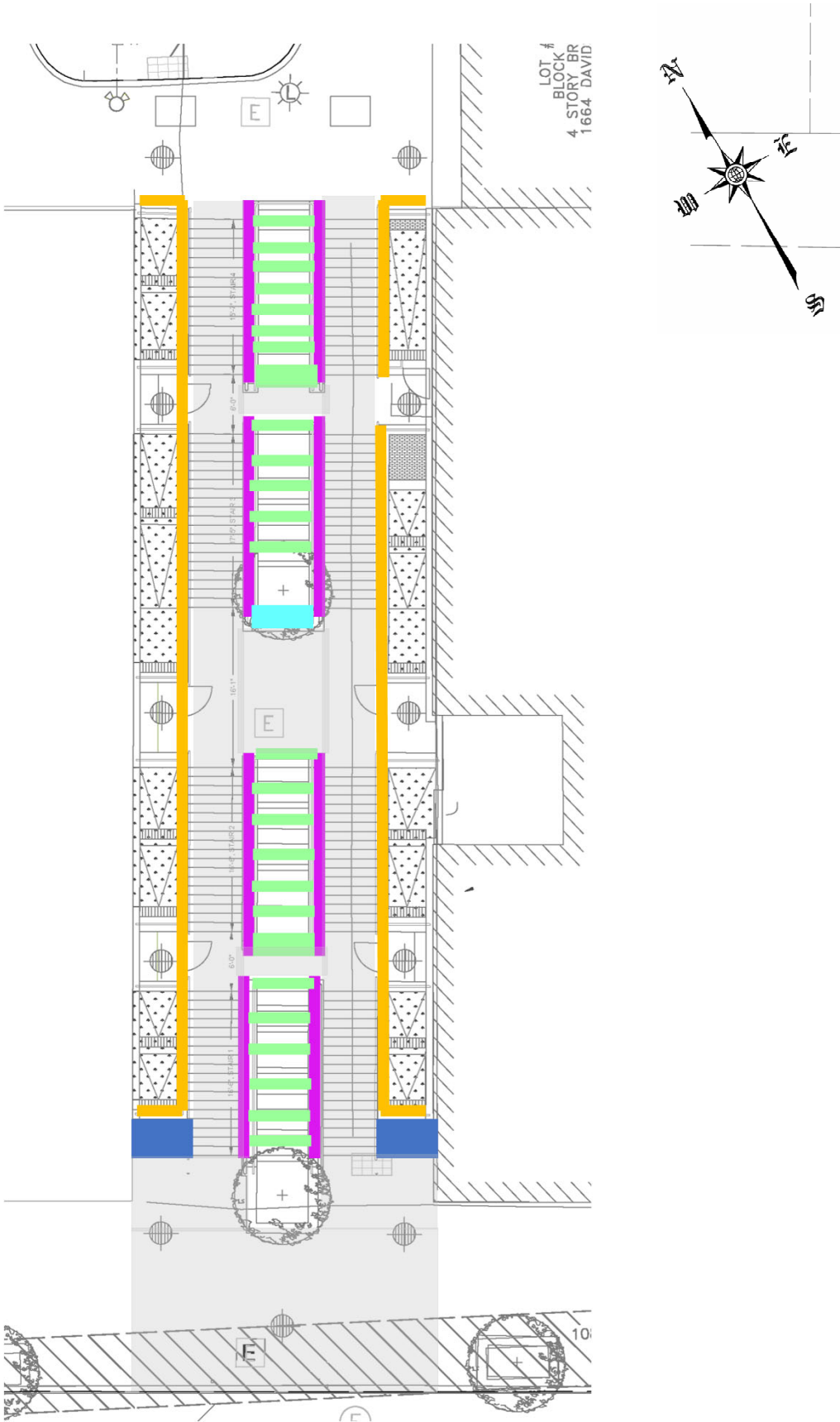


Proposed Plan (Access Points)



Architecture: Key Elements

- Reclaimed granite steps to be incorporated in seating and planting
- Bike channels on both stair runs
- Light gray exposed aggregate concrete finish (Sustainable Design)
- NYC Percent for Art; Artwork incorporated into guardrail
- Roman steps
- Integrated bench



Architecture Rendering: Bottom of Steps



Architecture Rendering: Bottom of Steps



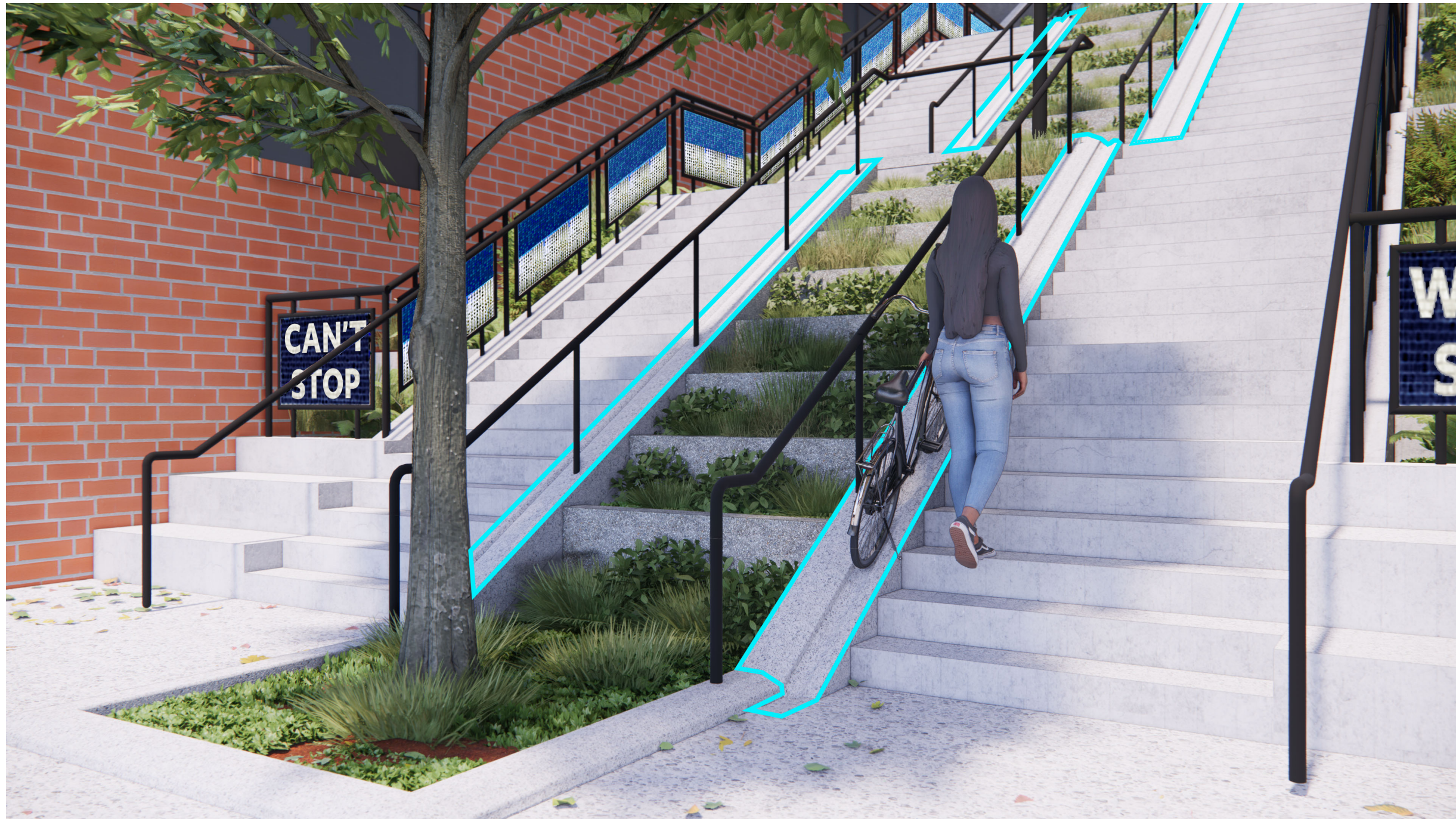
Architecture Rendering: Top of Steps



Architecture Rendering: Midspan Landing



Architecture Rendering: Bike Channel

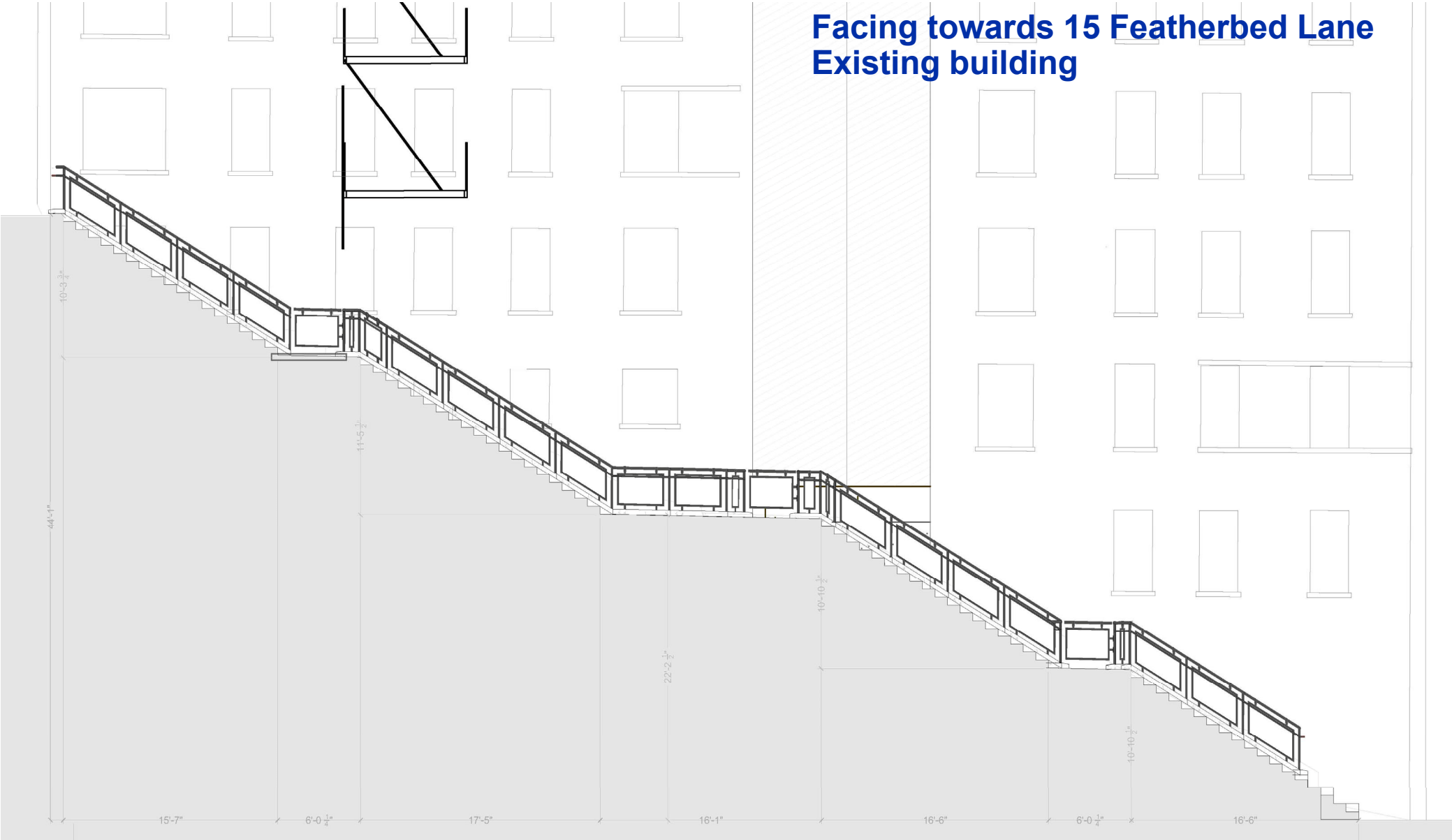


Architecture: Architectural Elevation (West)



Note: Percent for Art is included in this project. Art panels will be inserted into the guardrails.

Architecture: Architectural Elevation (East)

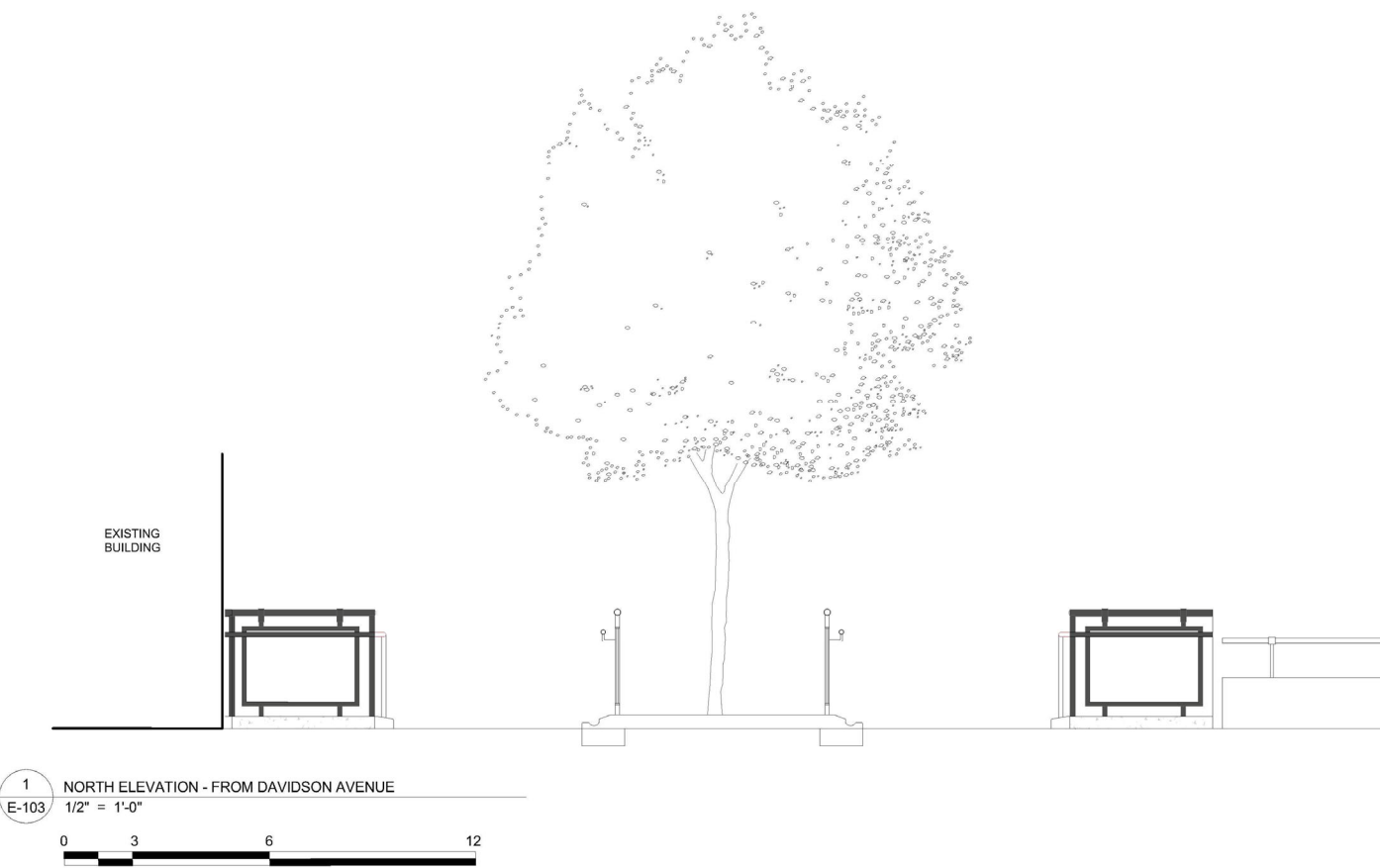


Note: Percent for Art is included in this project. Art panels will be inserted into the guardrails.

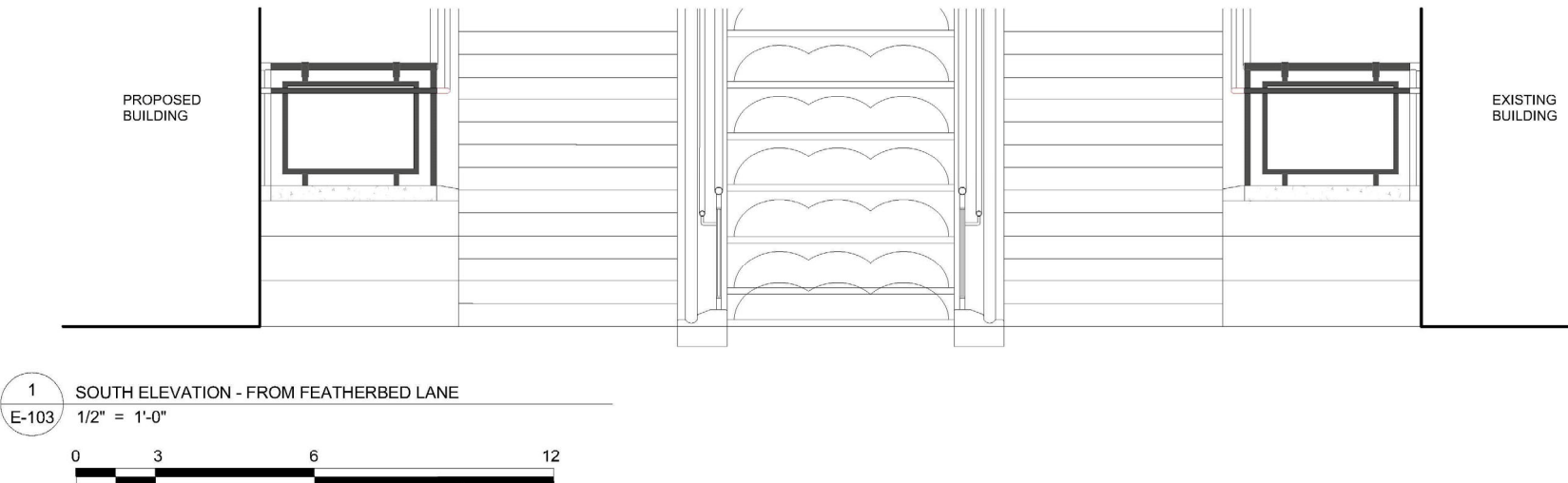


Architecture

Architectural Elevation (North and South)



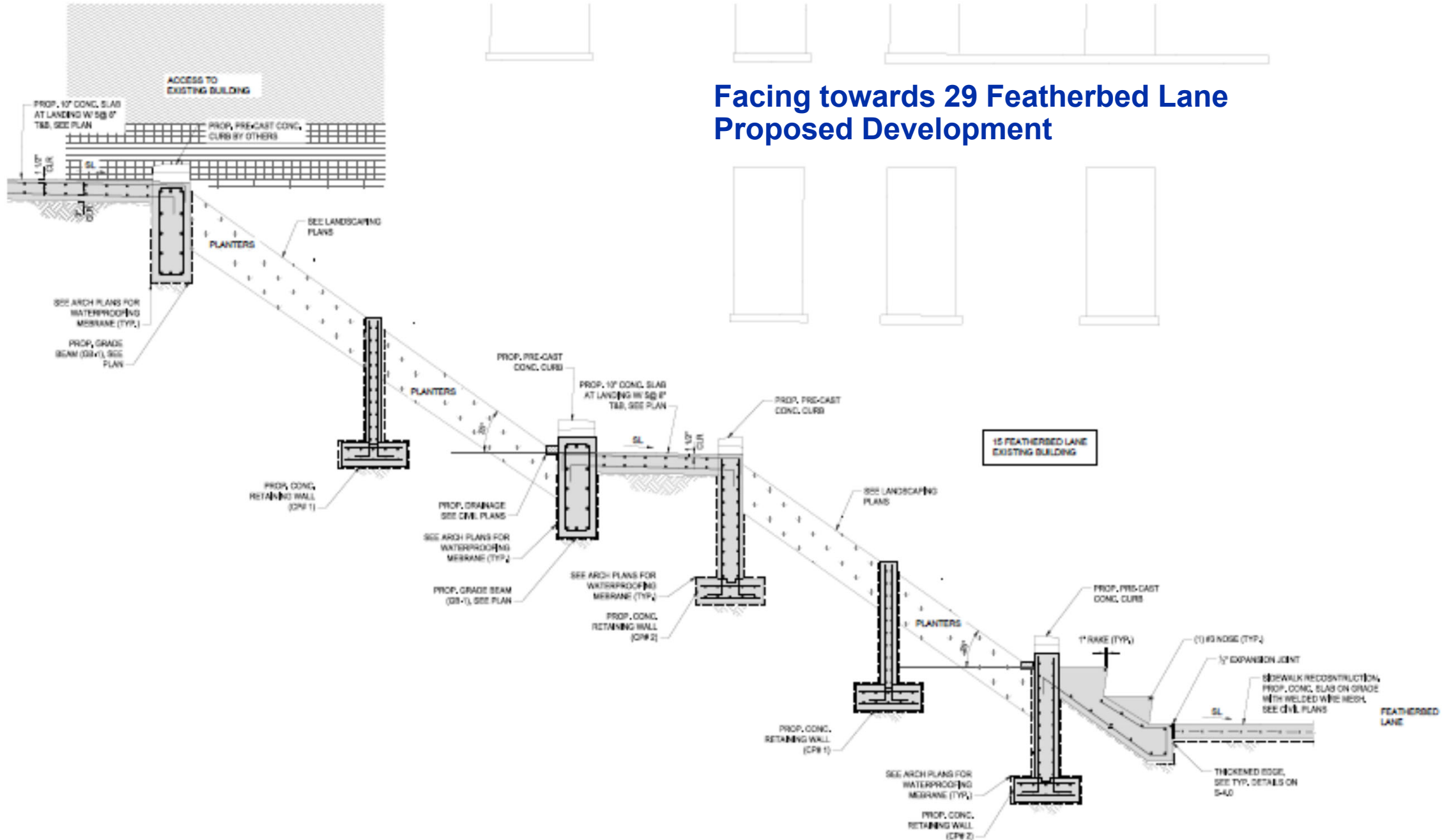
North Elevation



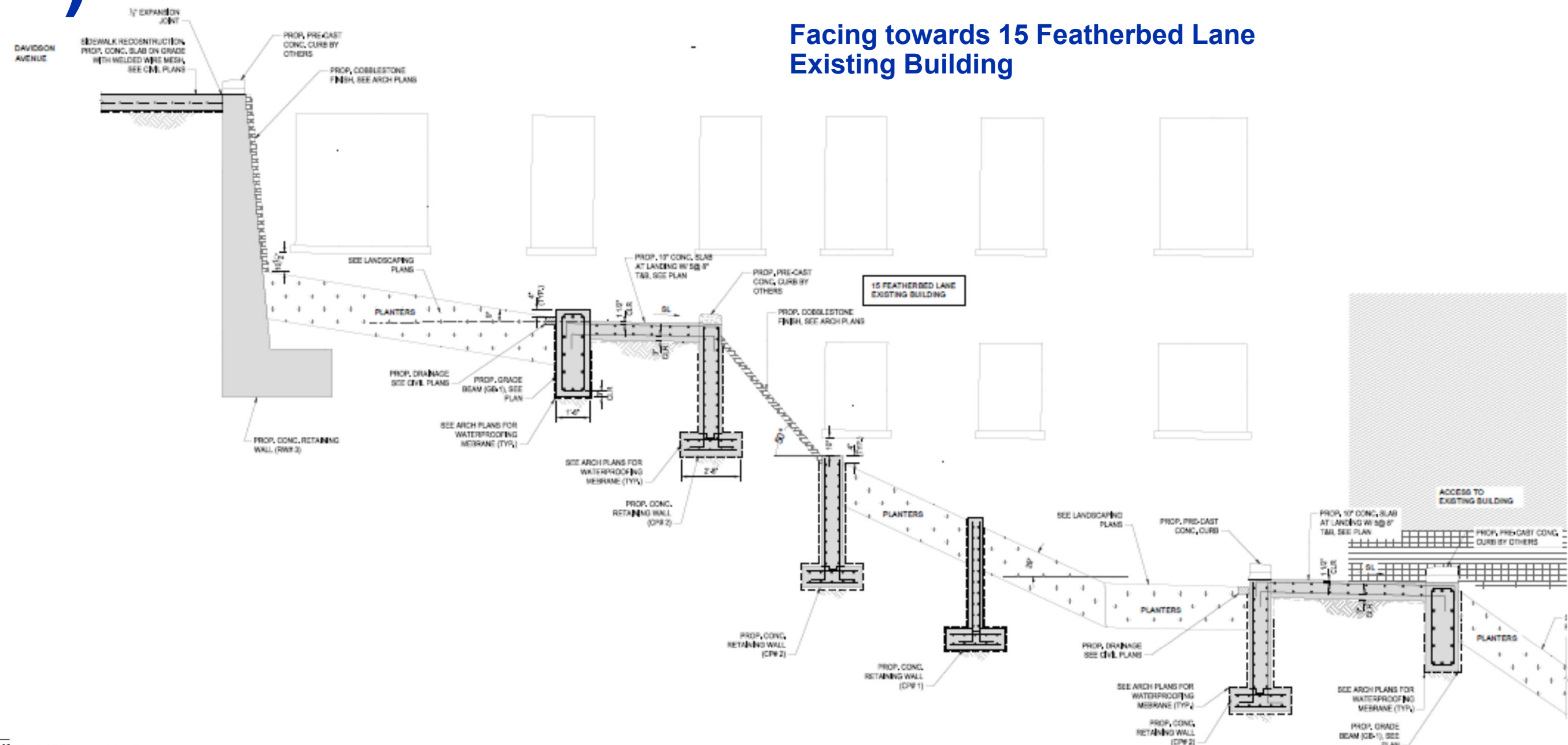
South Elevation

Note: Percent for Art is included in this project. Art panels will be inserted into the guardrails.

Architecture: Architectural Elevation (West)



Architecture: Architectural Elevation (East)



Facing towards 15 Featherbed Lane
Existing Building

Project Hardscape Materials: New and Repurposed



Exposed aggregate concrete
(New material to be used in
proposed steps and
landings)



Reclaimed granite steps
(Repurposed material to be
used in built-in benches
and planting beds)



Existing cobblestone
(Repurposed material to be used to fill emergency
access areas at adjacent buildings)

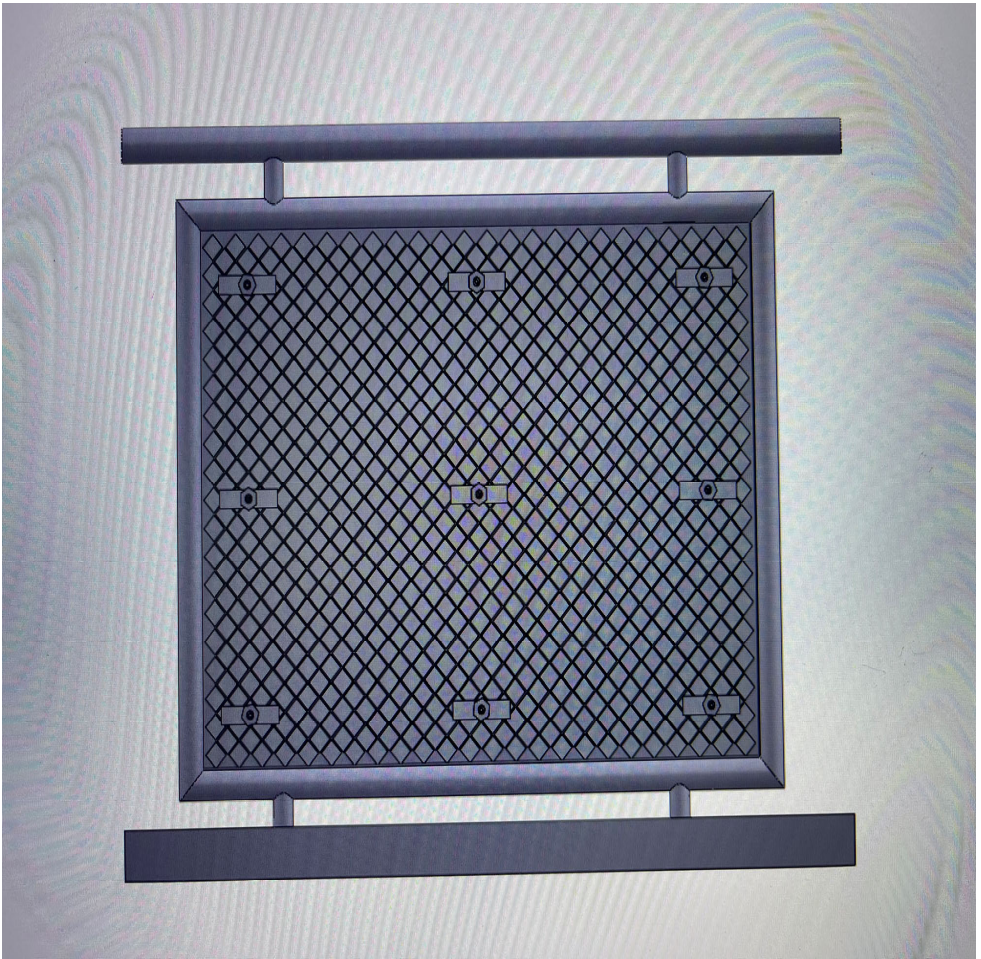
Project Hardscape Materials: New and Repurposed



Type B Pedestrian Light Pole
(New material to be used in
proposed steps and
landings)



Bike Channel
(New material to be used in
proposed steps and
landings)



Guardrail / Handrail with art
panel attachment
(New material to be used in
proposed steps and landings)

[illegible]

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Pallet (Trees and Shrubs)



LC – Leucothoe Axilaris
Squazam



ND – Nandina Domestica
Wood Dwarf



PL – Prunus Laurocerasus
Mount Vernon



SH – Sarococca Hookeriana
Var. Humilis



SR – Skimmia Reevisiana



TC - Tilia Cordata
Greenspire

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Pallet (Perennials and Grasses)



BM – Brunnera Macrophylla
Jack Frost



CA – Carex Appalachia
Appalachian Sedge



CF – Cyrtomium Fortunei
Holly Fern



LS – Liriope Spicata
Creeping Lillyturf



PA – Polystichum Acrostichoides
Christmas Fern

Landscape Architecture

Landscape Pallet (Groundcover)



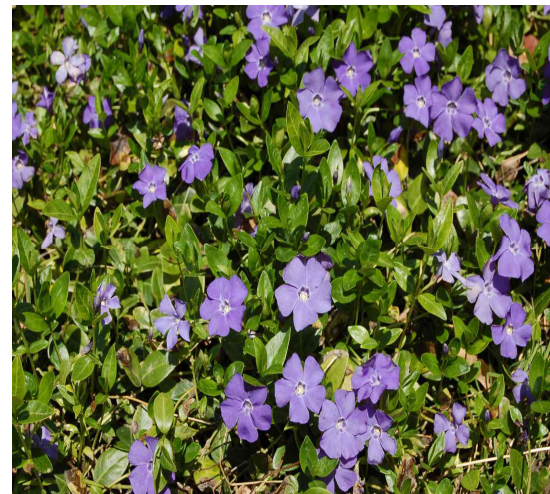
AR – Ajuga Reptans
Emerald Chip



EF – Euonymus Fortunei
Wintercreeper

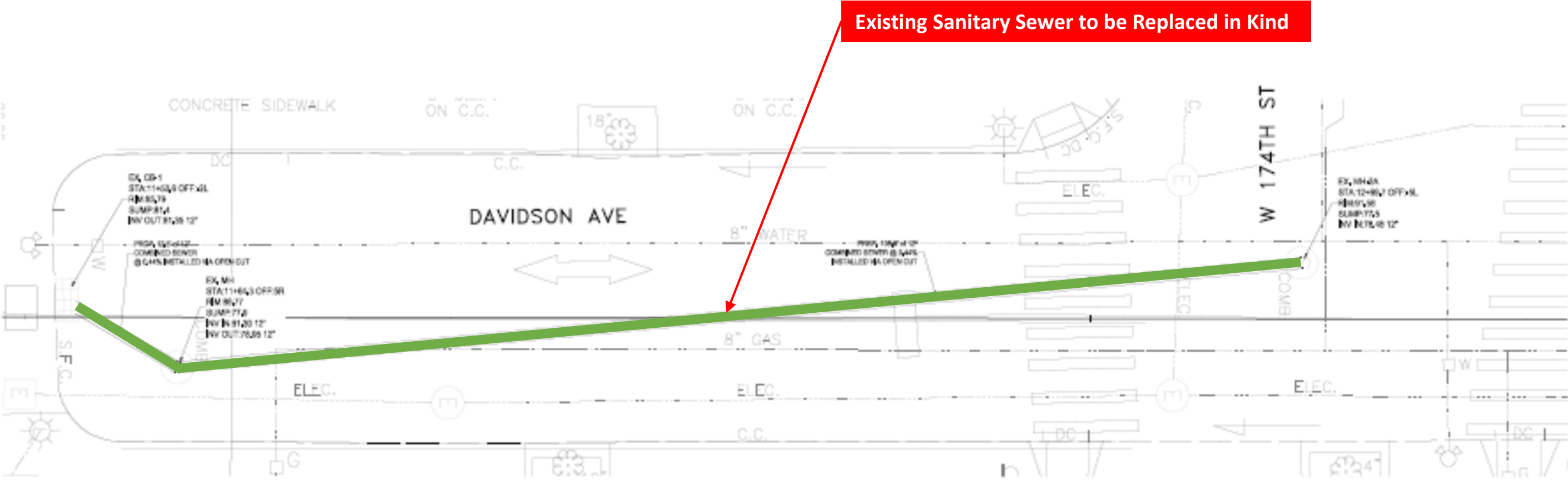


PT – Pachysandra Terminalis
Variegated Spurge

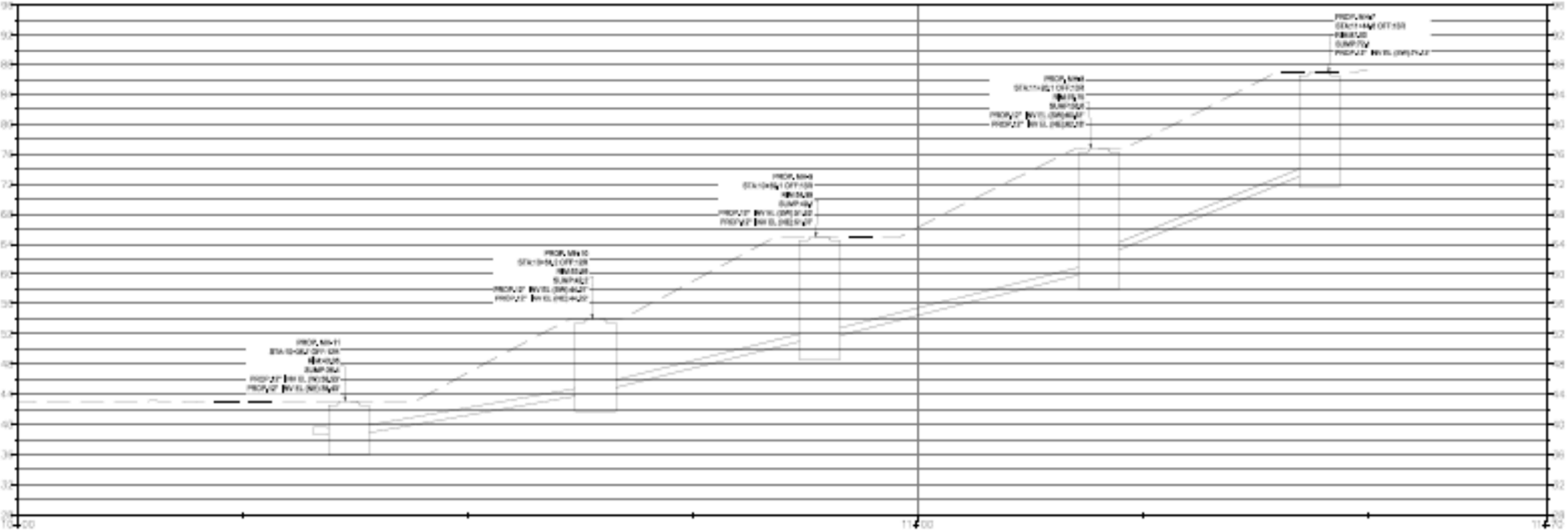
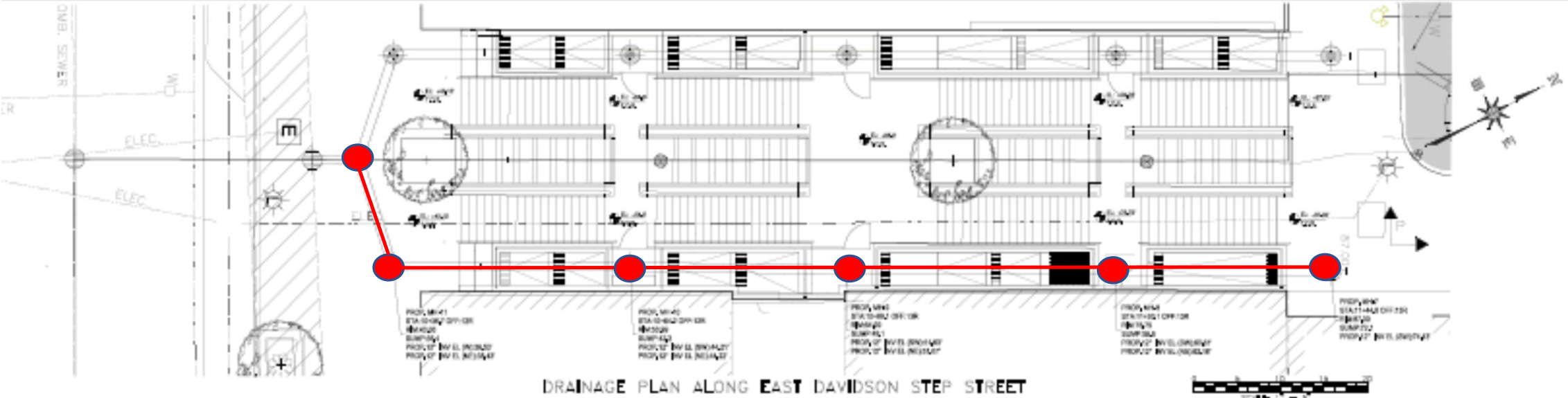


VM – Vinca Minor
Periwinkle

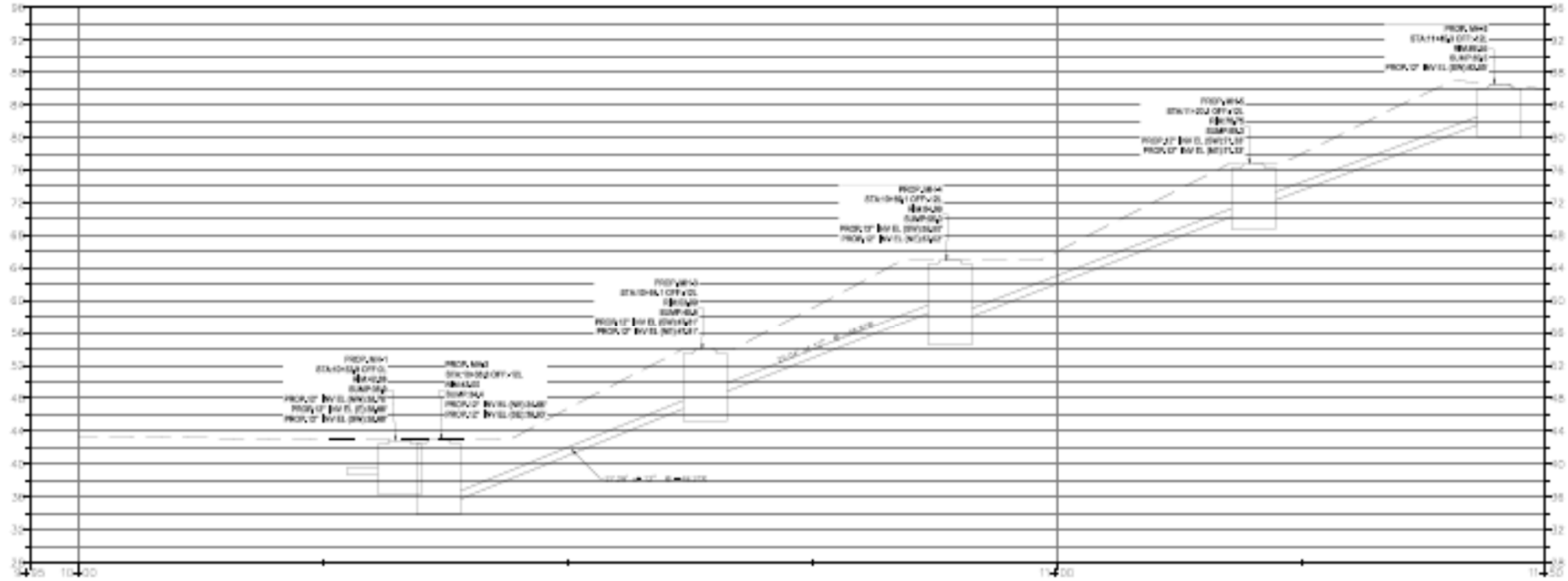
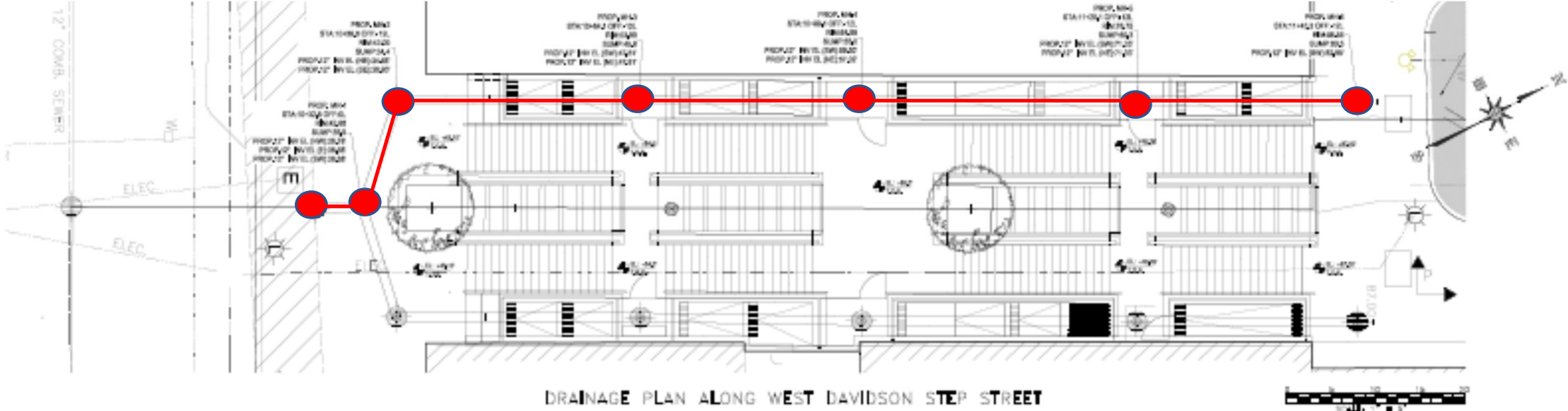
Existing Conditions



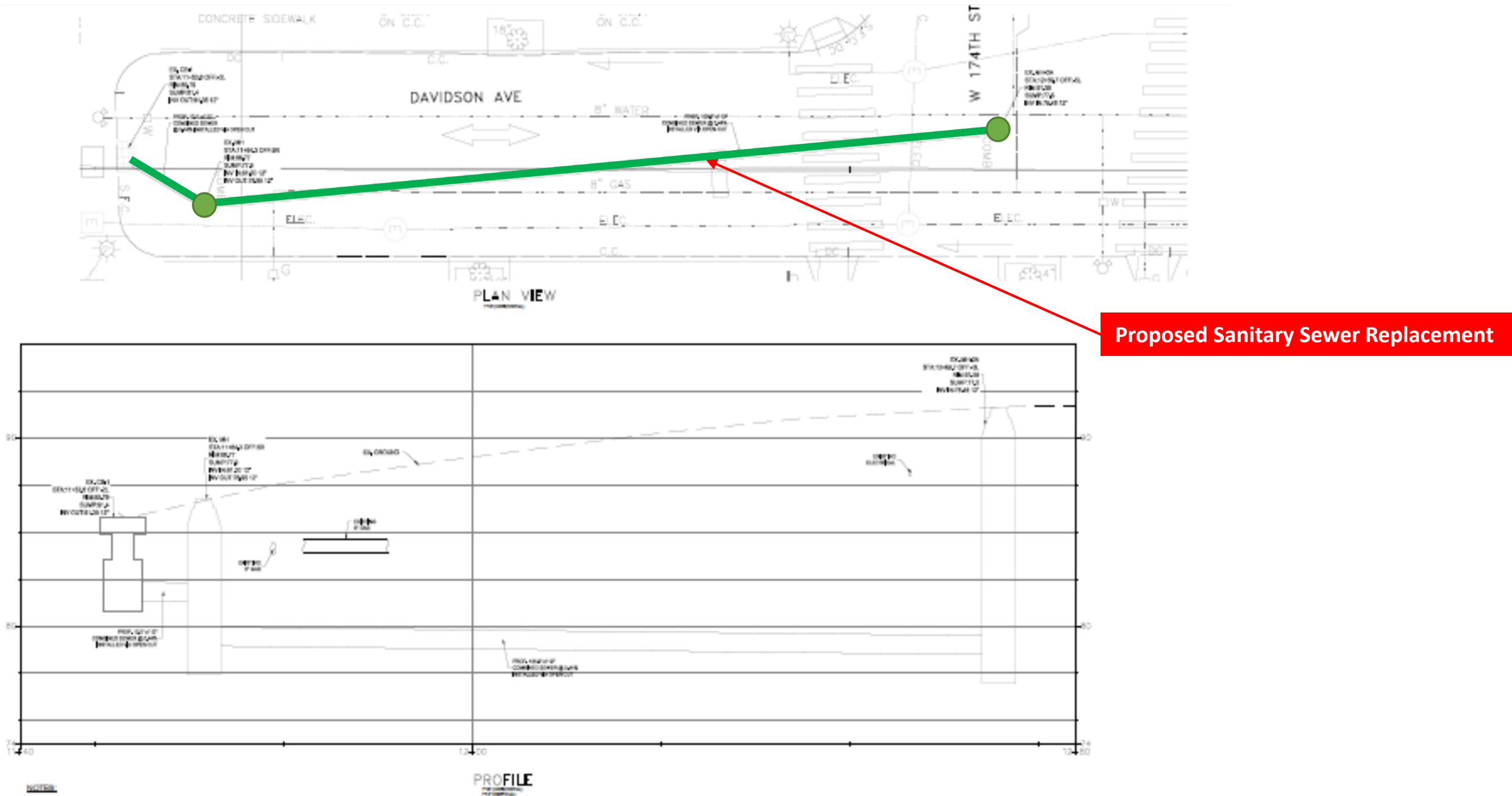
Proposed Plan (Drainage System)



Proposed Plan (Drainage System)



Proposed Plan (Sanitary Sewer System)





Q&A

Thank you!

A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)

DAVIDSON AVENUE STEP STREET

PDC Conceptual Design Presentation
NYC Percent for Art Program

C.J. CHUECA

PREVIOUS ARTWORK

C.J. Chueca





NYC Percent for Art Program
C.J. Chueca, Artist
CES / DOT / DDC / DCLA

Davidson Step Street (HWXS711)
June 20, 2022 | Conceptual Design
Public Design Commission

Previous Artwork

Dos Cielos Azules (Two Blue Skies)
Glazed custom bricks and wood
60 x 82 ½ each

I AM
THE RIVER
BEHIND
THE WALL











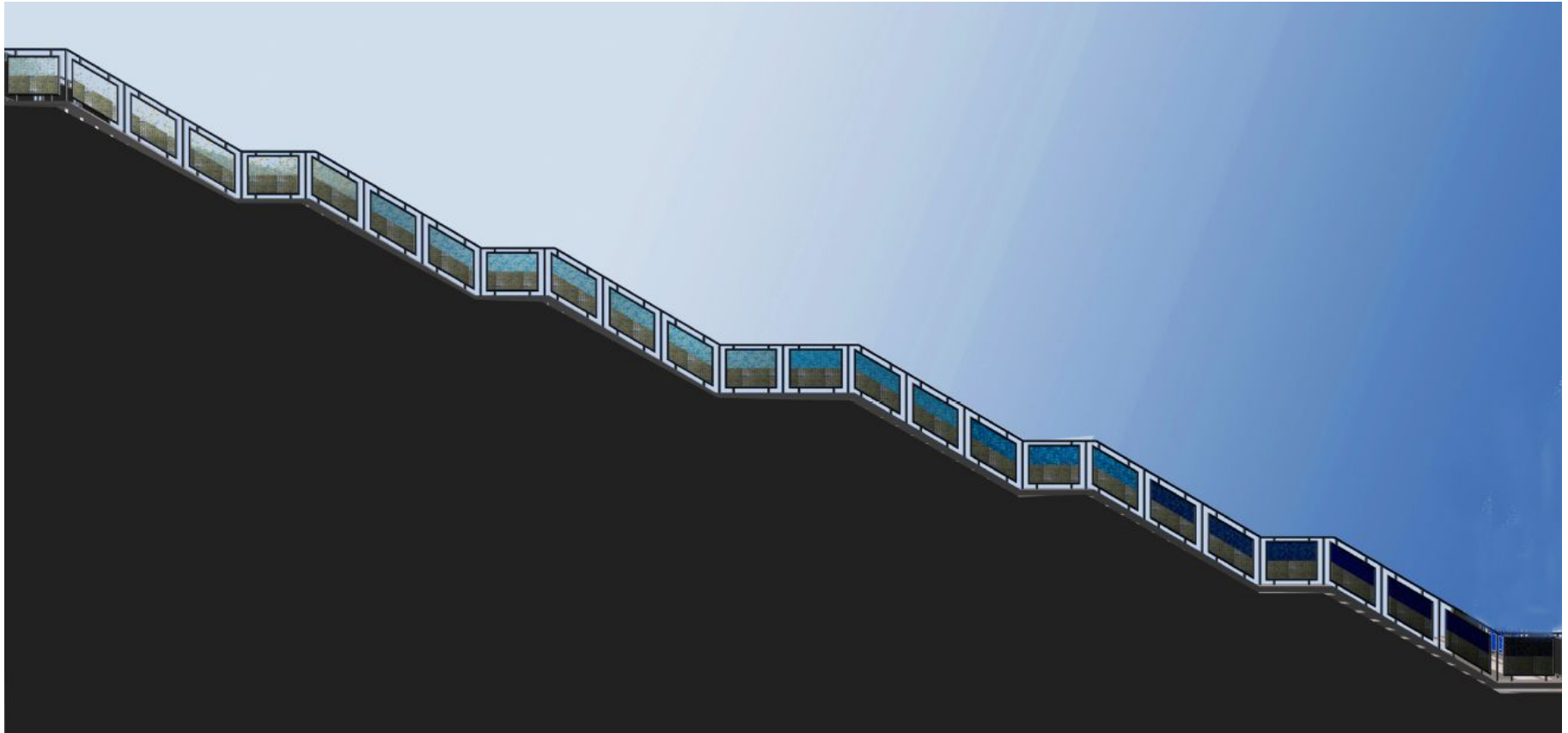




PERCENT FOR ART PANEL PROPOSAL

May 21, 2019

C.J. Chueca



A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)

PROPOSAL FOR DAVIDSON AVENUE STEP STREET

ARTWORK CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROPOSAL

A RIVER (CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP)

C.J. Chueca

A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)

1. The Stairs

50 mosaic panels comprised of glass and mirror mosaic tiles over [stainless steel or aluminum] panels

A river most of the time ends in the ocean. It goes through mountains, towns, forests and then becomes part of a larger matter, the sea. Many people living in New York City have immigrated from someplace else, if they didn't do it themselves, their parents did, their grandparents did, their great grandparents did. And they are now part of cultural melting pot. The Bronx is one of those places where diversity is part of its identity. My project looks to reinforce that inherent aspect, the richness of its multicultural people.

The shape of a step street seems similar to the shape of a river. I will like to use this coincidence as a metaphor: A passage. Where people can pass through an experience every time they use the stairs, a sensation that that site speaks to them, relates to them, to their processes, their life. Or simply a pleasant trip in the middle of their day. I also note that while one ascends the stairs, it sees the omnipresent sky contrasting the concrete of the ground and buildings. I would like to create a gradient of the sky as one goes up, from dark to light blue, so we have a sense of the time passing.

The horizon, very present in my work, will be throughout the panels in the stairs of the step street. The top part will be glass and ceramic mosaic representing the sky. The bottom part will be made out of different shades of mirror mosaic. That way the mirror will create many reflections in the stairs and in the people using them. This will help with the metaphor of the water moving, the river.

A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)

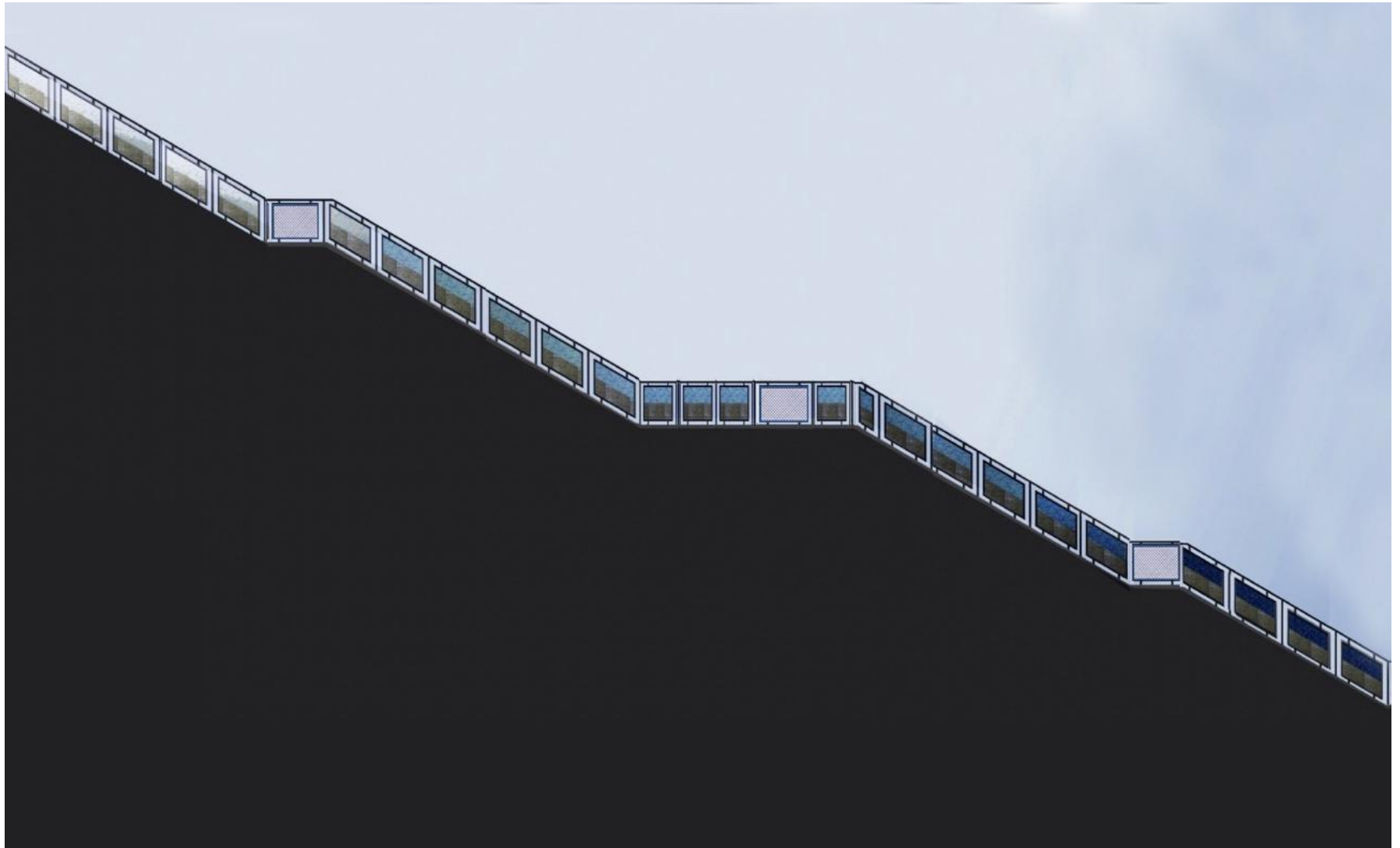
2. The top and bottom of the stairs / the dead end of Davidson Avenue:

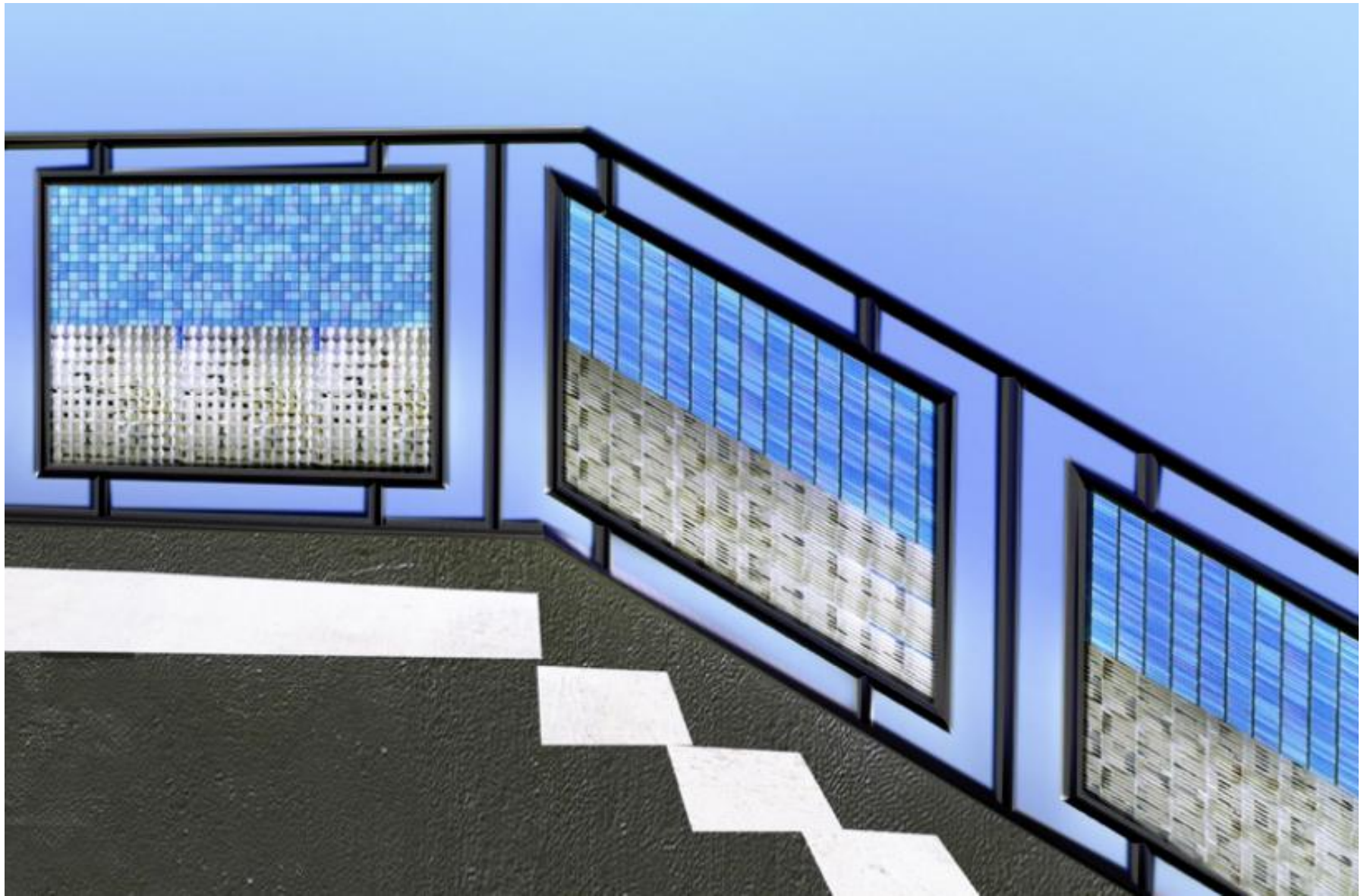
When I saw the end of Davidson Avenue (dead end) and how beautifully it fades out with the sky I realized that I would like to include a work there, at the top part of the stairs, so the neighbors will be able to see it from far away. That part can have a text, a punchline, that connects the stairs with “the river” literally and conceptually.



Conversations with some of the neighbors helped to frame that concept. For example, I had an interesting conversation with Ms. Wyre, an Afro-American woman with Portuguese and African roots in her 70's who told me a brief history of the neighborhood. I also had a long talk with a couple from Mexico, who moved 8 years ago and said they are very content with their community. When I asked “how would you define your relationship with this town, in words”, they said in Spanish, we need “Fortaleza y Volundad”. Those two words stood in my head (in English “Strength and Willingness”). I thought, “That’s what I would like to say somehow.”

In researching about Morris Heights I found that it is credited as the neighborhood where Hip Hop was born (on Sedgwick Avenue, by DJ Kool Herc in 1971 - 1973). There is a book about the beginning of the movement called “Can’t Stop, Won’t Stop” written by Jeff Chang. I thought the title was perfect for the parts that are visible from far away - the bottom of the stairs, and the dead end of Davidson Avenue (top part of the stairs). There are 4 songs with the same title, one very famous Hip Hop song from early 2000's. Those words are tattooed in the memory of some residents of the town. These words connect with the history of the neighborhood but also they could speak to the children commuting to school. To the men and women going to work. This phrase, like “Strength and Willingness” the phrase that the Mexican neighbor told me about the strong drive that one has to have to go up and down in life, can be a silent companion to the neighbors.















Close up of mirror and mosaic letters saying “Can’t Stop / Won’t Stop”, addressing various Hip Hop songs titles and lyrics throughout the years.



DJ Kool Herc playing with one of the first turntables. The called founder of Hip Hop was based in Morris Heights



**Glass mosaic
samples from the
fabricator**

Left: *Night Blue*
(dark prussian blue)

Right: *Umbra*
(cobalt blue)



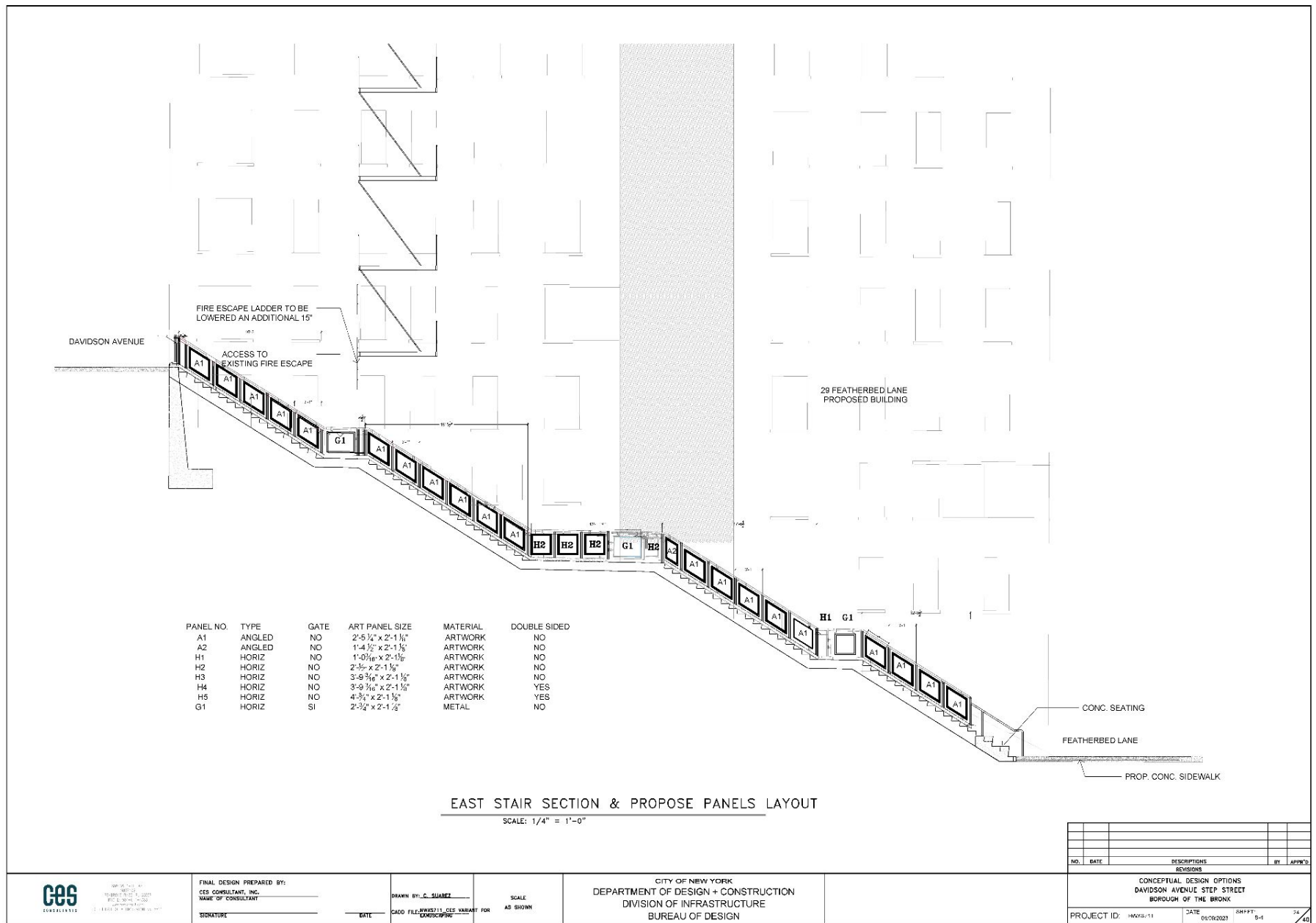


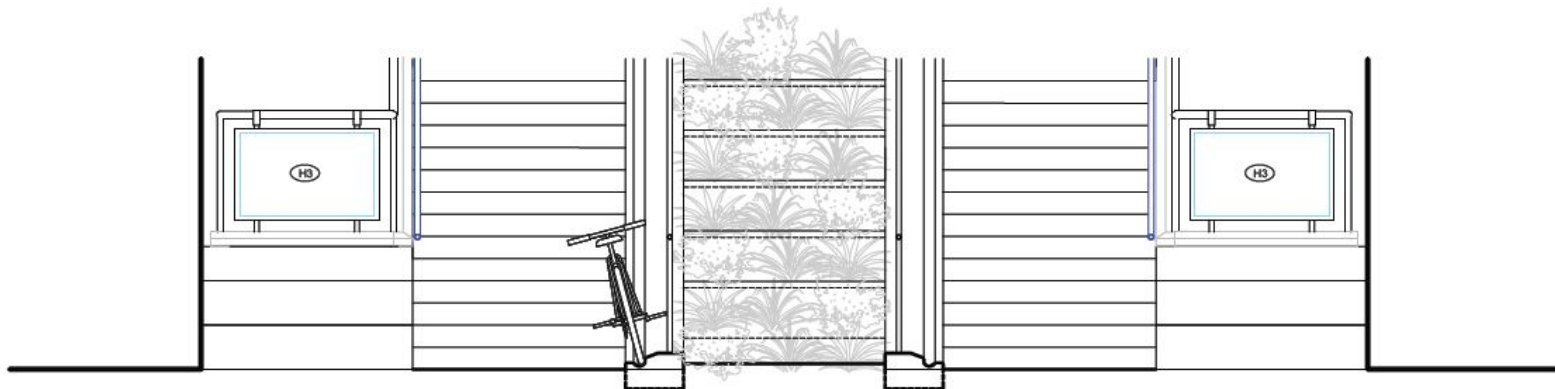
NYC Percent for Art Program
C.J. Chueca, Artist
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Artwork Proposal
A River (Can't Stop Won't Stop)

Example - Mirror Tiles
Glassell School of Art
Museum of Fine Art, Houston



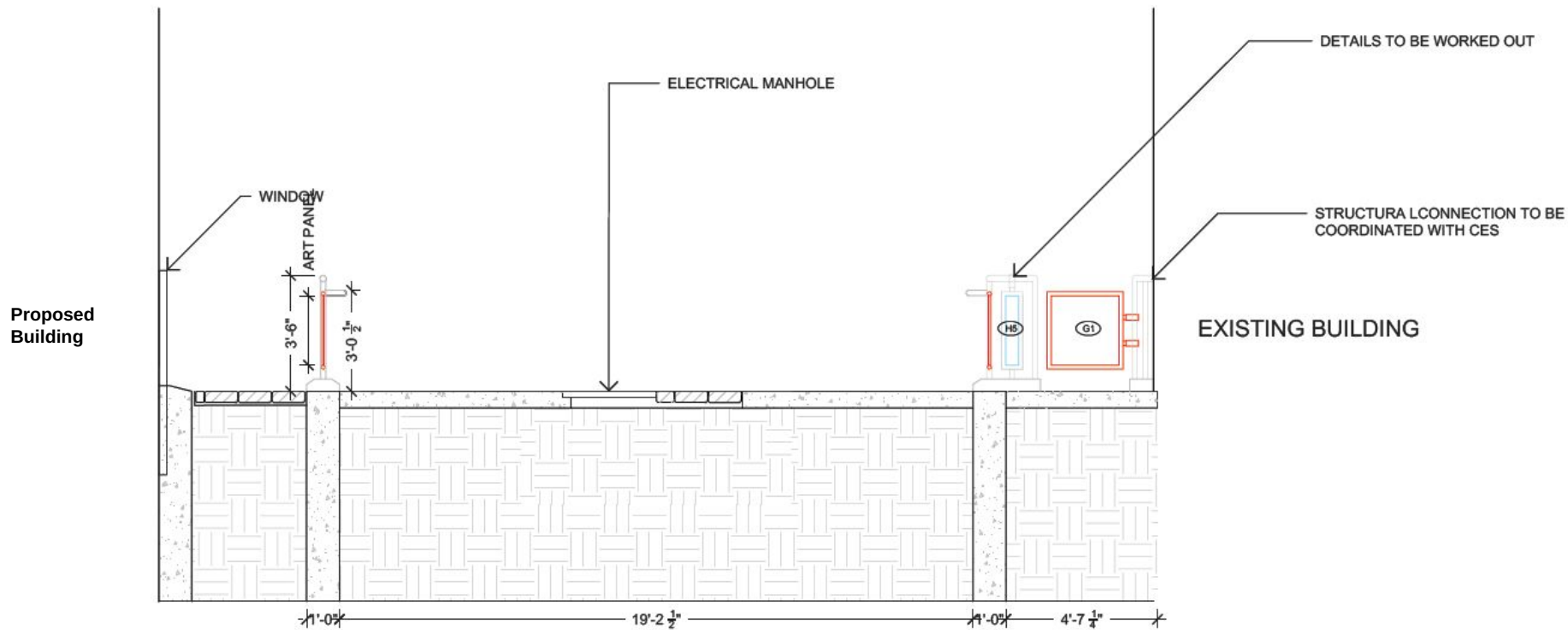


6
S-106

EAST LANDSCAPE SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"



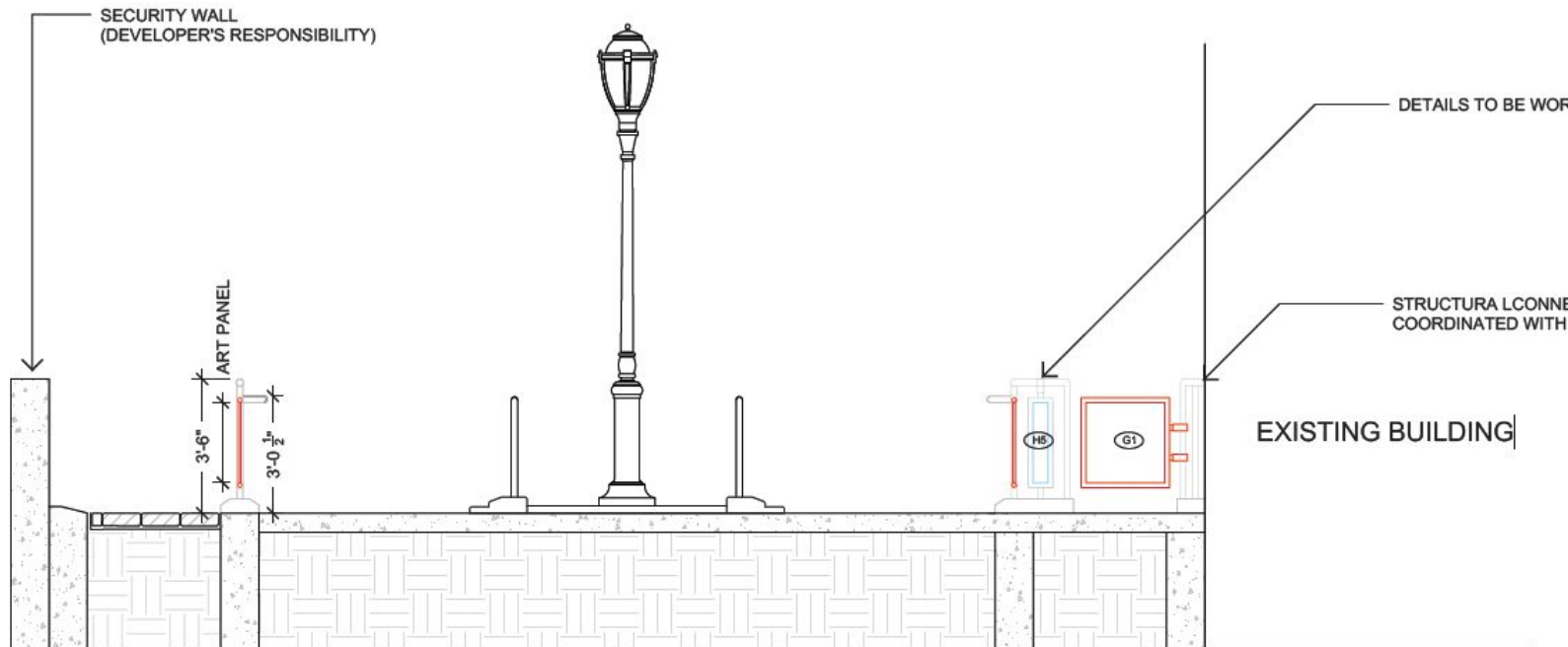


7
S-106

EAST LANDSCAPE SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"



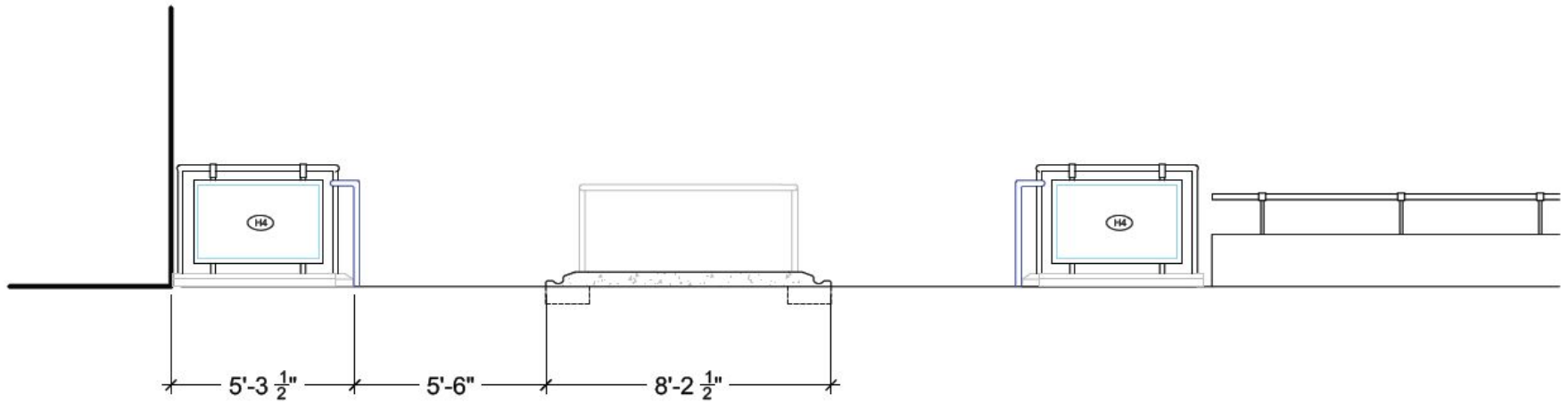


8
S-106

EAST LANDSCAPE SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"



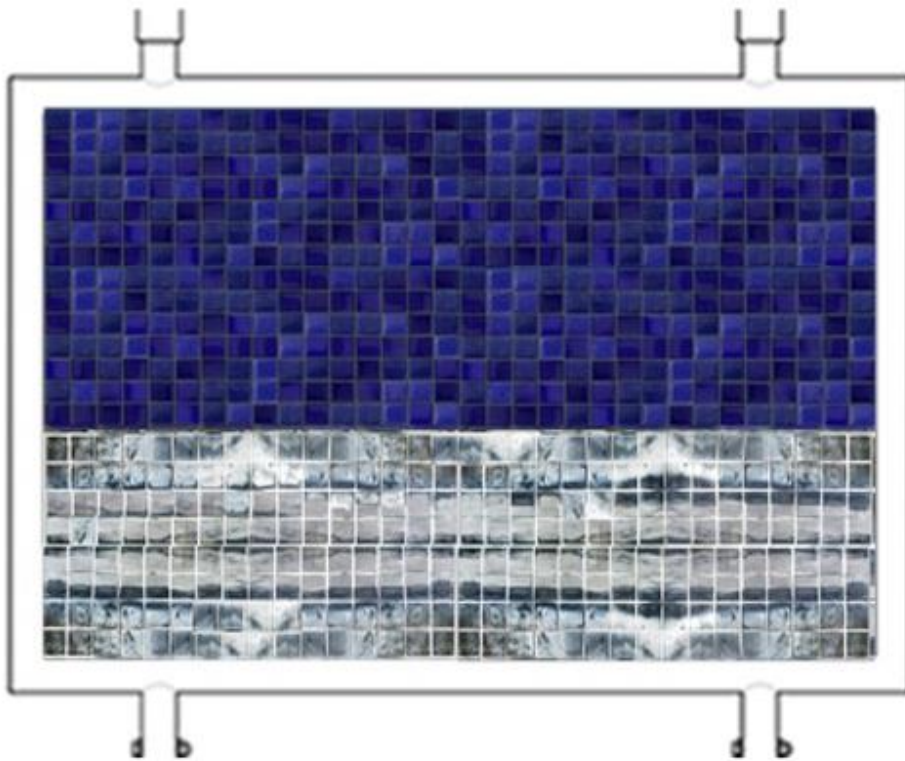


9
S-106

EAST LANDSCAPE SECTION

1/4" = 1'-0"



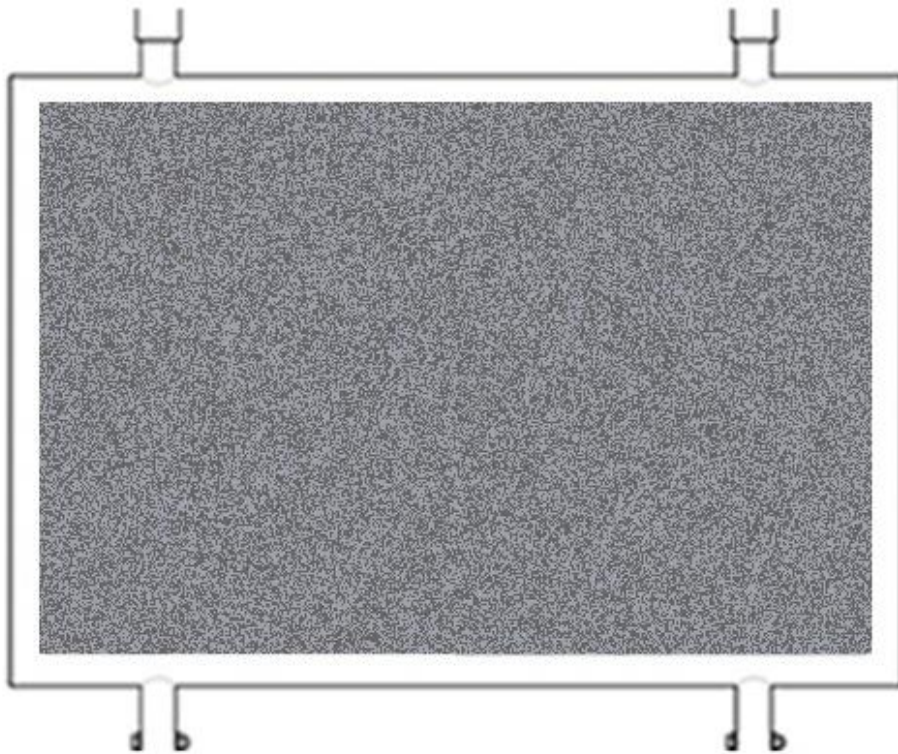


TOP THREE-FIFTHS OF PANEL

Different shades of blue
(including small portions of other colors
to give depth) of ceramic and glass
mosaics

LOWER TWO-FIFTHS OF PANEL

Different shades of mirror mosaics



Exploring different options for the back part of the panel:

Option 1:

- Aluminum panel protected with epoxy paint
- 3/8 inch thickness
- Layers: Aluminum, adhesive, mosaic

Option 2:

- Stainless Steel panel
- 3/8 inch thickness
- Layers: Stainless steel, adhesive, mosaic

MAINTENANCE

Mosaicos Venecianos® glass mosaics are composed of silica sand and mineral colorants. Once installed it is grouted with epoxy base adhesives (0% absorption), they are meant to be intact hundreds of years as other traditional mural mosaics around the world.

Regular cleaning is with a wet cloth.

For a deeper cleaning, the art fabricator recommends the products DuPont™ StoneTech® Sistem, to clean and protect their mosaics. Dupont StoneTech® Professional Revitalizer Cleaner & Protector with PH neutral must be used.

The cleaning system helps to prevent in exterior and interior applications and avoids the following problems: Hard water deposits, salt deposits, efflorescence, loose debris, soap scum, grease, and others

The factory will take photos of each finished panel and include writing details of the colors and sizes for each, in case there is a need to replace a portion in the future. The panels will be numbered.

